

One Hundred Eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the twentieth day of January, two thousand and four*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas at the beginning of World War II residents of North Platte, Nebraska, received information that members of the Nebraska National Guard from the North Platte area would be traveling through the community of North Platte on a troop train en route to the west coast;

Whereas residents of the North Platte community met the troop train on December 17, 1941, with food and other gifts for the troops when they arrived at the Union Pacific train station;

Whereas although the troop train carried young men from Kansas instead of members of the Nebraska National Guard, the residents of North Platte presented the young men from Kansas with the food and other items that were donated;

Whereas Rae Wilson, of North Platte, proposed establishing the North Platte Canteen to the North Platte community so residents would greet every troop train that traveled through North Platte and provide the military troops with comforts from home on their way to serve their country during World War II;

Whereas on December 25, 1941, the North Platte Canteen began serving food and other items to the United States military troops traveling across the United States to either the east or west coast before being shipped overseas;

Whereas during World War II, the North Platte Canteen routinely greeted and served food to between 3,000 and 5,000, and up to a maximum of 8,000, uniformed personnel on a daily basis for an approximate total of 6,000,000 personnel from every corner of the Nation;

Whereas individuals from 125 communities in Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas donated food and volunteered at the North Platte Canteen over its period of operation of approximately 5 years;

Whereas the North Platte Canteen operated strictly with volunteers from local communities, organizations, churches, schools, and other groups and received no Federal assistance for its operation;

Whereas the North Platte Canteen received \$137,000 in cash contributions from benefit dances, scrap-metal drives, school victory clubs, donation cans in local businesses, and relatives of servicemembers who traveled through the Canteen to help maintain the Canteen's operations over its period of operation;

Whereas the North Platte Canteen during one month alone served over 40,000 homemade cookies, 30,000 hard-boiled eggs, nearly 7,000 cup, loaf, and birthday cakes, and over 2,800 pounds of sandwich meat to serve to uniformed personnel;

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Whereas a typical daily shopping list might include 175 loaves of bread, 100 pounds of meat, 15 pounds of cheese, 2 quarts of peanut butter, 45 pounds of coffee, 40 quarts of cream, and 500 half-pint bottles of milk;

Whereas the greatest contribution of the North Platte Canteen to the war effort was as a morale booster and a reminder to servicemembers of the American values and ideals for which they were fighting; and

Whereas the North Platte Canteen was honored and recognized by the United States military with the War Department's Meritorious Wartime Service Award: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities involved with the North Platte Canteen that served the needs of 6,000,000 military personnel, who traveled through North Platte, Nebraska, on troop trains from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946, during World War II; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing the gallant efforts of those who made enormous sacrifices to make the North Platte Canteen a success during World War II.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.